

September 2005

Ranger Activities



Ranger on the Rock

From 6:30 PM to 7:45 PM nightly September 1st through 5th, discuss the superb views from the rim at Grandview and the resources of the *New River Gorge National River*. A Ranger has binoculars and brochures to share with those who stop by the Main Overlook for an evening visit and view.

Ranger on the Rim

Catch a ranger on Saturdays and Sundays in the Canyon Rim area to learn about the diverse ecosystem and natural and cultural resources of *New River Gorge National River*, see great views of the New River Gorge bridge, and watch boaters enjoy the roaring waters of the New River.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD

8:30 AM Morning Birdsong
10:00 AM Calling the Bluestone “Home”
2:30 PM Something Fishy
2:30 PM Snakes! (Sandstone)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH

2:30 PM Thurmond Walking Tour

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH

2:30 PM Emperors of the Night

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH

8:00 AM Birding on the Rim
8:30 AM Morning Birdsong
10:00 AM Calling the Bluestone “Home”
1:00 PM Endless Wall Hike
2:30 PM Something Fishy

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH

10:00 AM Catch a Glimpse – Of the Gauley
River National Recreation Area
2:30 PM Thurmond Walking Tour

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

2:30 PM Fur, Feathers and Fun



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH

10:00 AM Calling the Bluestone “Home”
10:00 AM Catch a Glimpse – Of the Gauley
River National Recreation Area
2:30 PM Birdlife Basics
2:30 PM A View from the Rim

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH

2:30 PM The PFDs of Water Safety
2:30 PM Recycling for Kids
2:30 PM Rendezvous with a Ranger –
Thurmond

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

6:00 PM Sunset Over the Gorge

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH

10:00AM Calling the Bluestone “Home”
11:00 AM Catch a Glimpse – Of the Gauley
River National Recreation Area
2:30 PM Snakes! (Grandview)
6:00 PM Boardwalk Birding

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH

2:30 PM Field and Forest Walk
2:00 PM Rendezvous with a Ranger –
Thurmond

Program Descriptions

For All Hikes

Bring water and wear comfortable walking or hiking shoes. Cameras and binoculars can also be handy.

Program Descriptions

A View from the Rim

2 Hours – 2 miles

Join the National Park Service at *Long Point Trailhead* parking lot for a leisurely two-mile walk to Long Point for an incredible view of the river, the park and the bridge. The geological feature of Long Point can be seen from many places along the river corridor, but the view from the top is spectacular. Wear good walking shoes. Bring water and your sense of adventure. Meet at the *Long Point Trailhead* off Newton Road, two miles down Gatewood Road from Fayetteville.

Birding on the Rim

2 Hours

Birding is a beautiful way to start a great day! Meet at the *Canyon Visitor Center* in front of the stone bulletin board for an easy one-mile stroll to look for our feathered friends throughout the gorge. Bring all of your birding stories, tales and techniques to share. Bring water and wear good walking shoes.

Birdlife Basics

2 Hours

Between 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. stop by the park ranger’s display near the Main Overlook at the *Grandview* area of *New River Gorge National River*. The park provides critical habitat to a great diversity of our fine, feathered friends. Discover some of the many beneficial roles birds play in the park ecosystem and why these roles change as bird populations decrease. Check out the display and learn about some of the area species. Stay as little or as long as you like.

New River Gorge
National River
National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior

Ranger Activities September 2005



Join a park ranger for one of our variety of programs, activities, walks, or hikes. Ranger-led activities provide an opportunity to learn more about the natural world that surrounds us, and to discover the history that shaped our culture.

Visitor Information

Canyon Rim Visitor Center

Open Daily, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Telephone: (304) 574-2115

Park Headquarters – Glen Jean

Open Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Telephone: (304) 465-0508

Thurmond Depot

Open Daily, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM (through Sept. 5)
Telephone: (304) 465-8550

Grandview Visitor Contact Station

Open Daily, 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM (through Sept. 5)
Telephone: (304) 763-3715

Sandstone Visitor Center

Open Daily, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Telephone: (304) 466-0417



New River Gorge
National River
P. O. Box 246
Glen Jean, WV 25846
(304) 465-0508
<http://www.nps.gov/neri>



Program Descriptions	September 2005	Program Descriptions	September 2005
<p>Boardwalk Birding 1½ Hours <i>New River Gorge National River</i> provides critical habitat for at least 233 species of birds, including many rare neotropical migratory birds. Join a park ranger and friends for a one-mile stroll on the <i>Sandstone Falls Boardwalk</i>, looking and listening to the birds of the island habitats. Bring binoculars and a field guide, if you have them, (some will be available), and water if you like.</p>	<p>misunderstood. Anytime between 2:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. join a ranger at <i>Canyon Rim Visitor Center</i> and learn about these fascinating creatures that live in <i>New River Gorge National River</i>. Touch owl feathers and learn more about these interesting predators and their roles in the New River Gorge ecosystem.</p>	<p>Recycling for Kids 1 Hour Come to <i>Canyon Rim Visitor Center</i> anytime between 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. and learn some fun projects using recycled materials. Learn ways to protect our environment and re-use many commonly thrown away articles. Kids are invited to come have fun and make a project or two from some surprising materials. It is our Earth; let’s learn to protect it.</p>	<p>and other “critters” that live in the New River. Learn about threats to native fish and how you can help protect them for the future. Stay as little or as long as you like.</p>
<p>Calling the Bluestone “Home” 1½ Hours Meet a park ranger at the bottom of the tramway at Pipestem Resort State Park for a two-mile round-trip walk in <i>Bluestone National Scenic River</i>. Along the way learn about the unique flora and fauna of the river and slopes, as well as some of the river’s fascinating human history. Bring good walking shoes, drinking water, and \$1.50 for the return tram ride.</p>	<p>Endless Wall Hike 2 Hours – 2 Miles This easy two-mile stroll will take you through a large hemlock tree stand, which is part of the sixth largest unfragmented forest in the world. This walk provides spectacular views of the <i>New River Gorge National River</i> and the New River Gorge bridge. Meet at <i>Canyon Rim Visitor Center</i> and carpool to the trail head.</p>	<p>Rendezvous with a Ranger, In Thurmond 1½ Hours Join a ranger to explore the old town of <i>Thurmond</i>, at the river’s edge on Highway 25. This fascinating railroad town is one of the cultural treasures of the <i>New River Gorge National River</i>. Learn how important this last steam town was to the railroad industry and how it affected the growth of the United States during the industrial revolution. Meet a ranger anywhere in town to ask questions, see old photographs and share stories of the heydays of Thurmond.</p>	<p>Sunset Over the Gorge 2 Hours Experience the wonders of the sunset as it disappears into the New River Gorge along the Endless Wall. While on the edge, enjoy the spectacular view from Diamond Point as the night descends into the gorge. Discover the wonders of the night and experience using your senses on the way back through the dark and nightly forest. Join National Park Service rangers for an easy two-mile hike. Wear good walking shoes. Bring a flashlight and your sense of adventure! Meet at the <i>Canyon Rim Visitor Center</i> to carpool to the trailhead.</p>
<p>Catch a Glimpse — Of the Gauley River National Recreation Area 1 Hour <i>Gauley River National Recreation Area</i> preserves 25 miles of free-flowing Gauley River and six miles of the Meadow River as they pass through scenic gorges and valleys containing a wide variety of natural and cultural features. Thousands of whitewater enthusiasts come to the Gauley every fall season to paddle one of the best whitewater rivers in the country. Meet a National Park Service ranger at the Summerville Dam overlook on Highway 129, on the left of the dam, to see what “Gauley Season” is all about.</p>	<p>Field and Forest Walk 2½ Hours – 2½ Miles Hike the ridgetop fields and forests of Chestnut Mountain with a park ranger. Learn about two habitats protected within <i>New River Gorge National River</i>. The trail has some rocky areas and steep grades. Meet at Gwinn Ridge parking area, 2.5 miles up the Brooks Mountain Road.</p>	<p>Snakes! Anytime between 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. stop by the park ranger’s display at <i>Sandstone Visitor Center</i> (09/03) or near the <i>Main Overlook at Grandview</i> (09/24). This week’s topic is snakes! Discover some of the many beneficial roles snakes play in an ecosystem and why a <i>live snake is a good snake!</i> Check out the display and discuss some of the area species. Stay as little or as long as you like.</p>	<p>The PFDs of Water Safety Learn how to enjoy the New River, and any body of water, safely. While visiting <i>Sandstone Falls Boardwalk</i> between 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., stop by the park ranger’s display of photos, information, and equipment. Practice the water safety skills and rescue techniques that can prevent water tragedies. Stay as little or as long as you like.</p>
<p>Emperors of the Forest 1½ Hours Owls are the top hunters of the night shift—mighty, mysterious, and sometimes</p>	<p>Fur, Feather, and Fun Anytime between 2:30 - 4:00 PM, meet inside <i>Canyon Rim Visitor Center</i>, one mile north of Fayetteville off US 19 north, for a fun hands-on experience. Learn about the many animals that call <i>New River Gorge National River</i> home. Make some animal tracks and match tracks to their owners. All kids at heart are welcome.</p>	<p>Something Fishy The waters of the New River support a diversity of wildlife, including at least 72 species of fish. While visiting <i>Grandview</i> between 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., stop by the park ranger’s display on the Main Overlook walkway to view photos, information, and specimens of some of the fish</p>	<p>Thurmond Walking Tour ½ Hours – ½ Mile Join a ranger on the front porch of the <i>Thurmond Depot</i> to begin a one-half hour, one-half mile stroll through the old railroad town of Thurmond. See why it was important to the C&O Railway and learn why steam filled the gorge during its heyday. Although never a large town, Thurmond played a very significant role in the growth of the United States during the industrial revolution. Come and find out why.</p>
	<p>Morning Birdsong 1½ Hours Begin your day with a song. Join beginners and experts in strolling and searching field and forest habitats for our vocal feathered friends. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them (some will be available) and good walking shoes; meet at <i>Grandview Visitor Center</i>.</p>		